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## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

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<b>2001 Assembly Bill 504</b>	<b>Assembly Substitute Amendment 1</b>
<i>Memo published: January 14, 2002</i> <i>Contact: Joyce L. Kiel, Senior Staff Attorney (266-3137)</i>	

### **CURRENT LAW**

In general, a school board may not grant a high school diploma to a person unless the person has earned a prescribed number of credits in certain subjects in the high school grades or has been enrolled in an alternative education program and demonstrated certain levels of proficiency. [s. 118.33 (1), Stats.] However, current law provides an exception by permitting a school board to award a high school diploma to a person who meets all of the following criteria:

1. Is at least 65 years old.
2. Attended high school in the school district.
3. Left high school before receiving a high school diploma to join the U.S. Armed Forces during a period of war as defined in s. 45.35 (5) (e), Stats.
4. Served on active duty under honorable conditions in the U.S. Armed Forces or in forces incorporated as part of the U.S. Armed Forces.

### **2001 ASSEMBLY BILL 504**

Assembly Bill 504 would amend the second condition above to require that the veteran attended high school in any school district in this state. Under the bill, the *only* school board authorized to award the diploma would be the *school board governing the school district in which the veteran resides*. In contrast, current law provides that the only school board authorized to award the diploma is the *school board governing the school district in which the veteran attended high school*.

**ASSEMBLY SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT 1 TO 2001 ASSEMBLY BILL 504**

Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 to Assembly Bill 504 would amend the second condition above to require that the veteran attended high school in the school district *or* attended high school in the state and resides in the school district. Therefore, under the substitute amendment, the diploma could be awarded by *either* of the following:

1. The school board governing the school district in which the veteran attended high school.
2. The school board where the veteran currently resides as long as the veteran attended high school in the state.

Assembly Bill 504 was introduced by Representative Hundertmark and others; cosponsored by Senator Decker and others. It was referred to the Assembly Committee on Education, which held a hearing on November 13, 2001. On November 16, 2001, Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 was offered by Representative Hundertmark. The Assembly Committee on Education adopted Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 on a vote of Ayes, 14; Noes, 0, and recommended passage of the bill, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 14; Noes, 0.

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